



## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Nevada State Office

P.O. Box 12000 (1340 Financial Blvd.)

Reno, Nevada 89520-0006

<http://www.nv.blm.gov>

In Reply Refer To:  
2800/2200 (NV-040)  
N-74943/N-74105

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your information is the Proposed Toquop Land Disposal Amendment to the Caliente Management Framework Plan (MFP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Toquop Energy Project. This document evaluates the environmental effects that would result from constructing up to an 1,100-megawatt (MW) natural gas-fired electric power generating plant and associated features on public lands in Lincoln County and Clark County, southern Nevada, that are presently managed by the Ely and Las Vegas Field Offices of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The power plant site would be near the Toquop Wash, approximately 50 miles south-southeast of Caliente, Nevada, and 12 miles northwest of Mesquite, or alternatively, approximately 12 miles north-northwest of the Toquop Wash. This document also evaluates the effects of amending the Caliente MFP, which would identify specific sections of land as available for disposal. This document also evaluates the proposed exchange of approximately 640 acres of private land (the Pah Rah parcel) in Washoe County, northwestern Nevada, for a similarly valued parcel of public land. The Pah Rah parcel would come under BLM administration if the Pah Rah/Toquop land exchange is approved.

This Final Environmental Impact Statement contains in its entirety the analysis originally presented in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement with responses to public comments. The public comments have been responded to by supplementing, improving or modifying the analysis, making factual corrections or explaining why the comments do not warrant further agency response. This Final Environmental Impact Statement incorporates mitigation measures to minimize impacts to wildlife and other resources, as well as monitoring to review the effectiveness of the proposed mitigation.

The Proposed Toquop Land Disposal Amendment to the Caliente Management Framework Plan may be protested by any person who participated in the planning process and who has an interest which is or may be adversely affected by the approval of the Proposed Plan Amendment. A protest may raise only those issues which were submitted for the record during the planning process (see 43 Code of Federal Regulations 1610.5-2). Protests filed electronically will not be accepted. File written protests by regular mail: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Director (210), Attn: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protest Coordinator, P.O. Box 66538, Washington, DC 20035, or overnight mail: U.S. Department of the Interior, Director, Bureau of Land Management, Protest Coordinator (WO-210), 1620 L Street, NW., Room 1075, Washington, DC 20036.

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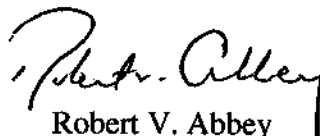
which is or may be adversely affected by the approval of the Proposed Plan Amendment. A protest may raise only those issues which were submitted for the record during the planning process (see 43 Code of Federal Regulations 1610.5-2). Protests filed electronically will not be accepted. File written protests by regular mail: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Director (210), Attn: Ms. Brenda Williams, Protest Coordinator, P.O. Box 66538, Washington, DC 20035, or overnight mail: U.S. Department of the Interior, Director, Bureau of Land Management, Protest Coordinator (WO-210), 1620 L Street, NW., Room 1075, Washington, DC 20036.

All protests must be filed with the Director within 30 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the NOA in the Federal Register. The protest must contain:

- i. The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest;
- ii. A statement of the issue or issues being protested;
- iii. A statement of the part, or parts, of the plan or amendment being protested;
- iv. A copy of all documents addressing the issue, or issues, that were submitted during the planning process by the protesting party or an indication of the date the issue, or issues, were discussed for the record; and
- v. A concise statement explaining why the State Director's decision is believed to be wrong.

If you have questions concerning the document, please contact Dan Netcher, Project Manager, at (775) 289-1872.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert V. Abbey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "A".

Robert V. Abbey  
State Director, Nevada

# Proposed Toquop Land Disposal Amendment to the Caliente Management Framework Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Toquop Energy Project

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**( ) Draft**

**(X) Final**

Lead Agency:	United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management
Cooperating Agency:	United States Department of the Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Counties Directly Affected:	Lincoln, Clark, and Washoe Counties, Nevada
Environmental Impact Statement Contact:	Correspondence on this Final Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIS) should be directed to:  Dan Netcher Team Lead Ely Field Office (775) 289-1872  Gene A. Kolkman, Field Manager Bureau of Land Management Ely District HC 33 Box 33500 Ely, Nevada 89301-9408 (775) 289-1800

Date draft plan amendment and Draft EIS filed with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): May 31, 2002.

Date this final plan amendment and Final EIS made available to EPA and the public: \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.

## Abstract

This Proposed Toquop Land Disposal Amendment to the Caliente Management Framework Plan (MFP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Toquop Energy Project evaluates the environmental effects that would result from constructing the proposed Toquop Energy electric power generating plant. This maximum 1,100-megawatt (MW) natural gas-fired and water-cooled power plant and associated features would be located on public lands in Lincoln County and Clark County, southern Nevada, that are presently managed by the Ely and Las Vegas Field Offices of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The power plant site for the Proposed Action is approximately 50 miles south-southeast of Caliente, Nevada, and 12 miles northwest of Mesquite, Nevada. An alternative power plant site located in the Tule Desert approximately 12 miles north-northwest of the Toquop Wash plant site and an alternative air-cooled plant located at the Toquop Wash plant site are evaluated.

This document also evaluates the effects of amending the Caliente MFP, which would identify specific sections of land as available for disposal. This action would be needed to exchange approximately 640 acres of private land (the Pah Rah parcel) for a similarly valued parcel of public land at one of the power plant sites. The Pah Rah parcel is located in the Pah Rah Range in Washoe County in northwestern Nevada, and would come under BLM administration if the Pah Rah/Toquop land exchange is approved.

Federal actions addressed in the accompanying document are the BLM's issuance of rights-of-way needed to construct and operate the Toquop Energy Project, amendment of the Caliente MFP to identify specific public lands as available for disposal, and facilitation of a land exchange as it relates to the proposed project. This Final EIS satisfies the National Environmental Policy Act, which mandates that federal agencies analyze the environmental consequences of major undertakings.

Official responsible for the plan amendment and the environmental impact statement:

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Robert V. Abbey  
State Director, Nevada

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Date